

Increasing HIV screening, diagnosis, and treatment in a large Zambian correctional facility: Interim results from a prison-focused Universal Test and Treat program

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Background

Low uptake of HIV Testing Services (HTS) is an ongoing challenge in Zambian correctional facilities. Inmate ability to access HIV testing services is estimated at around 30% and those commencing anti-retroviral therapy (ART) at around 60%. We conducted an interim impact evaluation of a **Universal Test & Treat (UTT)** program in a large Zambian correctional facility, Lusaka Central.



Methods

We implemented a **UTT program** available to all new and existing inmates and offered **immediate ART** to inmates with newly diagnosed HIV or previously diagnosed HIV infection not yet on ART, regardless of CD4 count or WHO stage prior to national UTT adoption in Zambian HIV care and treatment guidelines.

To enable UTT, we strengthened the prison health system by: training corrections officers and health workers; hiring a dedicated study nurse and clinician; and supporting routine HTS and viral load (VL) testing.

To **evaluate impact**, we applied the **RE-AIM** framework:

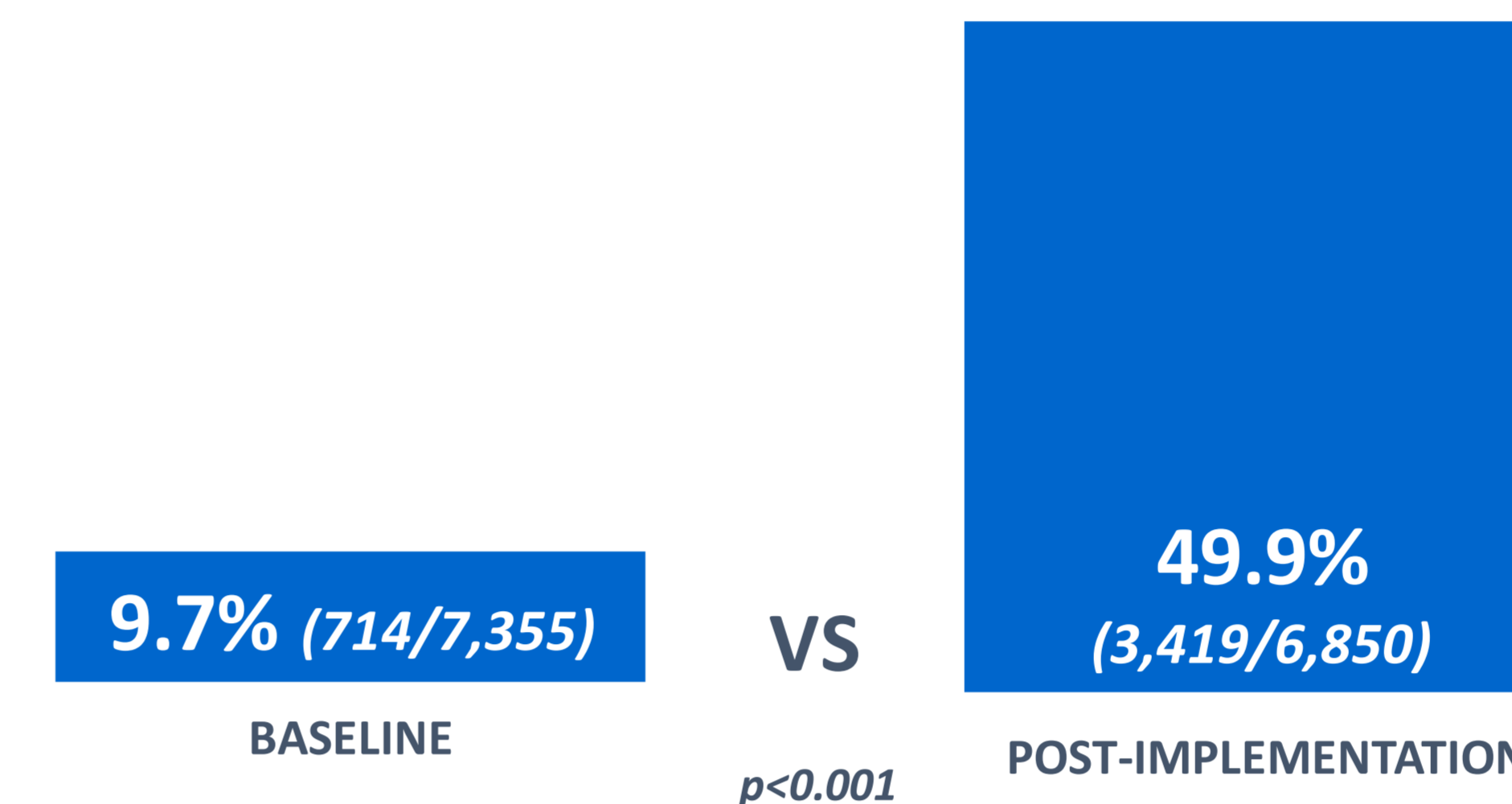
- Compare reach, effectiveness, adoption, implementation and maintenance using routine and prospective data collected between the program period (1st July 2016—30th June 2017) and the year prior to UTT introduction (1st June 2015—30th July 2016).
- We compared outcomes for categorical variables using a two-sample test of proportions.

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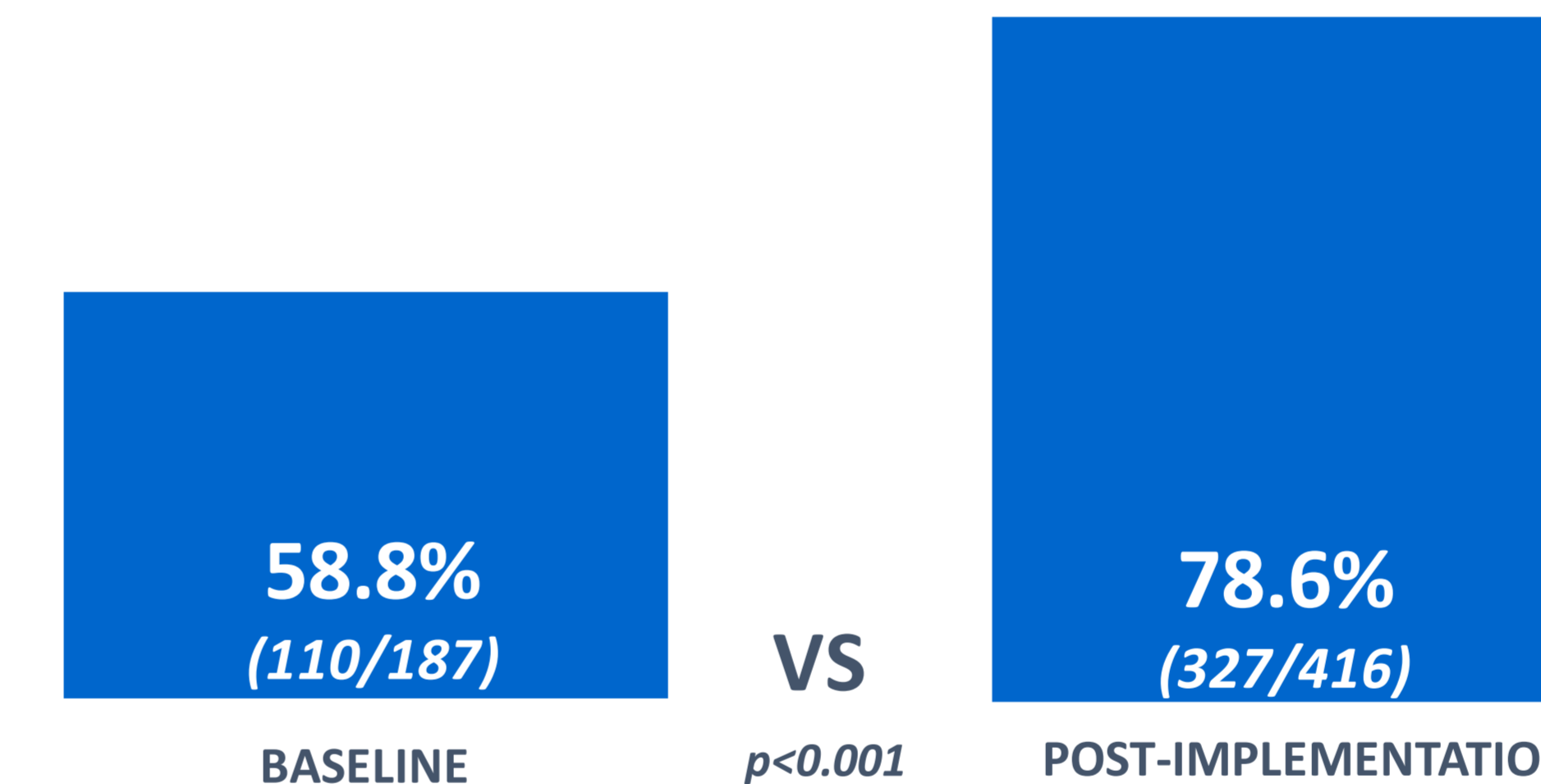
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Results

REACH: UPTAKE OF HTS WITHIN THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY INCREASED



EFFECTIVENESS: ACCEPTANCE OF IMMEDIATE ART



ADOPTION: FRAGMENTED BY RELEASE & TRANSFER PROCEDURES UNCOORDINATED WITH HEALTH SERVICES



IMPLEMENTATION: UPTAKE OF HTS & SAME DAY ART

92.3%
ACCEPTED HTS
(compared to our target of 75%)

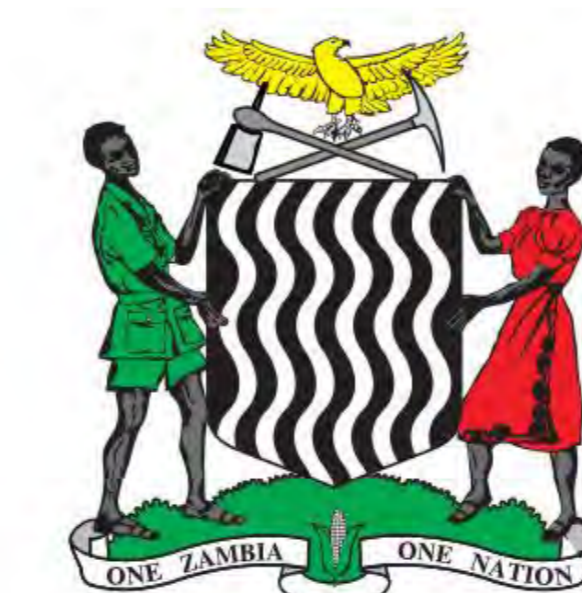
90.0%
NEWLY DIAGNOSED STARTED ART <1 DAY
(meeting our 90% target)

MAINTENANCE: HIGH TURNOVER OF STAFF A KEY OBSTACLE

- During the program period, we were required to re-train:**
- 80 inmate peer educators and cell captains over 3 sessions after initially training 55.
 - 48 staff from ZCS and MOH over 4 sessions, after first training 24

Conclusions

- We achieved:
 - **High uptake** and **fidelity** of HTS and same-day ART
 - **Improved** HIV service **reach** and **effectiveness** within Lusaka Central.
- Long-term UTT **maintenance may be threatened** by:
 - **Limited staffing & resourcing** of the prison health system,
 - **Uncoordinated transfer & release** for inmates newly starting ART.



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

